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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,896	03/16/2004	Vinit Chantalat	P1476	5368

24739 7590 06/08/2005

CENTRAL COAST PATENT AGENCY
PO BOX 187
AROMAS, CA 95004

EXAMINER

NGO, LIEN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3727

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/802,896

Applicant(s)

CHANTALAT, VINIT

Examiner

LIEN TM NGO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/16/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In page 16 line 24, "sleeve 802" should be – sleeve 804 --.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. Claims 1, 6 and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 2, "elastic element" should be – elastic jacket --, and in line 10, "the threaded body" should be – the screw stem body --.

In claim 6, "the threaded body" should be – the screw stem body --.

In claim 11, after "opening", "and" should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Permuy (Pub. US 2003/168424). Permuy discloses, in fig. 2, a stopper assembly comprising a screw stem body 12 having a tapered end 10, an elastic jacket 2, a

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retention housing 3 fitted over the body and jacket, and turning nut 6 attached to the retention housing and threaded to the body.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5, 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haigh (456,257). Haigh discloses, in fig. 1, a stopper assembly comprising a screw stem body C having a tapered end c, an elastic jacket B having a flared end, a retention housing A fitted over the body and jacket, the retention housing having a key held in a key opening on the housing to prevent rotation of the housing about the body, a stop nut e' and a turning nut D attached to the retention housing and the body; and wherein the retention housing includes a retention cap A and a gripping cup a (see fig. 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ljungberg (2,062,519) in view of Condon (5,307,841) or Turnwald (6,607,087).

Ljungberg discloses a stopper assembly comprising a screw stem body 10 having a tapered end 2, an elastic jacket 6 having a flared end, a retention housing 13 fitted over the body and jacket, the retention housing having a key (inner thread) held

in a key opening (outer thread of the housing) on the housing to prevent rotation of the housing about the body, a gas passage way 10, a second threaded portion 14 on the body and a valve stem assembly threaded onto the second threaded portion (see col. 2, lines 1-4), a stop nut 4 and a turning nut (see col. 2, lines 4-6) attached to the body.

Ljungberg does not teach the turning the turning nut attached to the retention housing and the body.

Condon or Turnwald teaches nut attached to a retention housing and a screw stem body.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a turning nut attached to the retention housing and the screw stem body in the Ljungberg invention, in view of the teaching of Condon or Turnwald, in order to stabilize the turning nut with the retention housing and the screw stem body.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LIEN TM NGO whose telephone number is 571-272-4545. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM -6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, LEE YOUNG can be reached on 571-272-4549. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LIEN TM NGO
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3727

April 28, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lien TM Ngo', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.